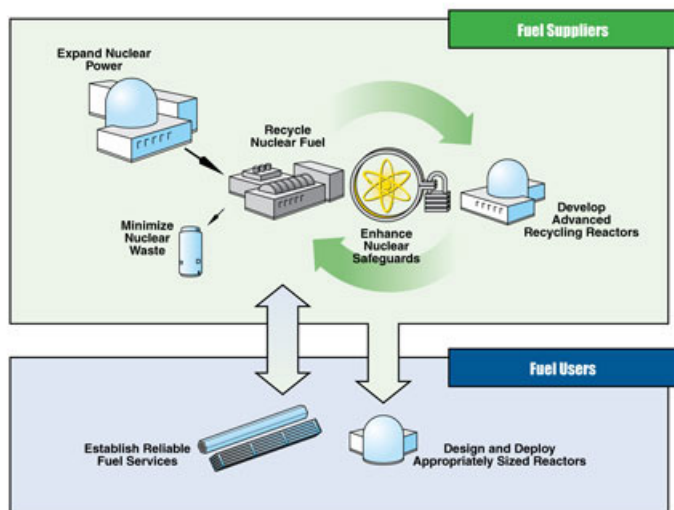


## GNEP: Regional Development Alliance to receive grant for siting study

The commercial-public consortia Regional Development Alliance of Idaho Falls, with assistance from Idaho National Laboratory, has been selected as one of 11 recipients of grants to conduct detailed siting studies for integrated spent fuel recycling facilities under the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) initiative. DOE will award the grants early next year after negotiations with prospective awardees are completed.



**The Global Nuclear Energy Partnership focuses on expanding nuclear power and establishing partnerships between fuel suppliers and fuel users.**

"As our economy grows, so will the need for reliable, emissions-free energy generation," said DOE Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Dennis Spurgeon. "Nuclear energy can help meet that need and GNEP can do it in a way that maximizes the benefit of nuclear fuel while minimizing the risk of nuclear proliferation. That is why we are pleased that so many communities across the country are interested in hosting the initial facilities necessary to support this exciting project. These selections are an important initial step in proceeding to evaluate and select locations to host GNEP facilities."

Six of the 11 sites are owned and operated by DOE.

Representatives of the Regional Development Alliance, Idaho's Congressional offices and Idaho National Laboratory are expressing their pleasure at the announcement from the U.S. Department of Energy that eastern Idaho has been selected to receive a grant to perform more detailed studies on the suitability of the region to host key facilities associated with GNEP.

In early August, DOE invited community groups across the nation to apply for grants of up to \$5 million each to conduct very detailed site qualification reviews. Information obtained from these studies, along with other relevant information, will be used to support the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will evaluate reasonable siting alternatives for the anticipated GNEP facilities - a Consolidated Fuel Treatment Center, capable of separating used fuel into its usable and waste components; and an Advanced Burner Reactor which would convert transuranics into shorter-lived radioisotopes while producing electricity. At the conclusion of the EIS, DOE will make decisions about whether to move forward with the facilities, and if so, where to locate them.

Eastern Idaho responded to DOE's Funding Opportunity Announcement through the area's leading economic development and diversification organization - the Regional Development Alliance. RDA's board chairman, Blake Hall, is calling news of the region's selection for a grant an important validation of eastern Idaho's status as a preferred location for technology-centric research and development.

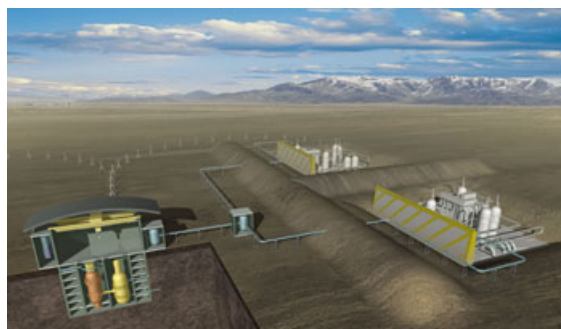
"We are delighted that Idaho has been chosen as a GNEP grant recipient. Although we are unsure of the amount of the grant, and although we have a long road ahead of us, we are confident that Idaho is the right location for the proposed facilities under the GNEP initiative. Eastern Idaho is a long-time supporter of the missions of the Idaho National Laboratory. The letters of support for GNEP received from cities, counties and organizations all across the region demonstrate that the critical support for our national laboratory continues. We look forward to working with the U.S. Department of Energy to move this initiative forward in Idaho," said Hall.

Idaho's senior senator, Larry Craig, who has been tireless in his support of GNEP specifically and nuclear power in general, said "I am encouraged by the wide range of communities interested in hosting nuclear recycling projects, and I'm especially proud that two Idaho communities received grants, continuing our proud tradition of hosting some of the most exciting energy projects in the world."

Craig's sentiments were echoed by Sen. Mike Crapo. "As the Administration forges ahead with its Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, I have no doubt that the INL, as the nation's premier nuclear energy research laboratory, will play a leading role in the GNEP program. This will have a significant economic impact on eastern Idaho. Everyone associated with this application is to be commended for their hard work and dedication to the future of nuclear energy," Crapo stated.

"The fact that Idaho is home to two of the eleven successful applications is a testament to the value INL and Idaho citizens bring to our energy future," said Congressman Mike Simpson. "Idaho and INL stand ready to play a leading role in the future of GNEP and the re-invigoration of nuclear power in this nation. I want to commend everyone involved with these two applications for their hard work and dedication to our nation's energy security."

Idaho National Laboratory Deputy Director for Science and Technology David Hill says he views today's announcement as another indicator that the region, the state and its national laboratory are being looked at as a key, collaborative resource for an energy-challenged nation and world. "The RDA is to be commended for putting together a remarkably compelling portrayal of what this region and



**An advanced nuclear fuel recycling center contains facilities where usable uranium and transuranics are separated from spent light water reactor fuel for use in producing new fuel that can be reused in a power reactor.**

this laboratory uniquely have to offer. It's exciting to contemplate where our partnership can lead in terms of enabling a global renaissance of nuclear energy," Hill said.

GNEP, launched earlier this year as part of the President's Advanced Energy Initiative, aims to expand the use of nuclear energy to address the growing demand for energy. GNEP proposes private-public-international partnerships to develop advanced technologies to recycle used nuclear fuel, reduce wastes and avoid misuse of nuclear materials.

To view the DOE press release, click [here](#).

For more information on GNEP, visit: [www.gnep.gov](http://www.gnep.gov).

Additional information on DOE's nuclear energy program may be found on [www.nuclear.energy.gov](http://www.nuclear.energy.gov).

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